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8  
9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

10  
11 FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,  
12 Plaintiff,  
13 v.  
14 OMICS GROUP INC., et al.,  
15 Defendants.

Case No. 2:16-cv-02022-GMN-VCF

DECLARATION OF SRINUBABU  
GEDELA

16  
17 I, Dr Srinubabu Gedela, hereby state that I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth  
18 below and am competent to testify about them. If called as a witness, I could and would testify  
19 as follows:

- 20 1. I am over the age of 21. I live in Hyderabad, India.
- 21 2. I graduated from Andhra University with a Bachelor of Pharmacy. I also have a Master
- 22 of Technology and received my Ph.D from Andhra University in 2007 followed by post-
- 23 doctorate from Stanford University in 2007.
- 24 3. While obtaining my doctorate, I received the Young Scientist Award from the Asian
- 25 Human Proteome Organization (HUPO) in 2007.
- 26 4. I faced lot of difficulty in getting relevant literature during my graduation. For literature
- 27 I used to travel 500 miles once in month from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad. Due to the
- 28

- 1 difficulty in finding quality articles while completing my own research, I sought to help  
2 all scholars by creating an “Open-Access” forum for publication.
- 3 5. Therefore, in 2007, I started OMICS Group (“OMICS”) as the founding director and  
4 CEO.
- 5 6. OMICS’ principal place of business is located in Hyderabad, India, and the principal  
6 business is to publish academic journals and to promote and host related international  
7 conferences and events.
- 8 7. OMICS has been instrumental in taking science and technology knowledge to the  
9 doorsteps of not only scholars, but ordinary men and women as well.
- 10 8. OMICS publishes “Open-Access” scientific journals and organizes conferences around  
11 the world.
- 12 9. The “Open-Access” publication model enables the dissemination of research articles to  
13 the global community free of charge.
- 14 10. Additionally, it removes the price and permission barriers that normally limit access and  
15 usage of published literature to only subscribed or licensed journals.
- 16 11. OMICS publications are made available online, free of charge to anyone and everyone  
17 having internet access.
- 18 12. I, through OMICS, developed the “Open-Access” model in order to expand the  
19 knowledge base and advance the development of science, because I believe scientists  
20 require unrestricted access to relevant scientific data and scholarly literature.
- 21 13. OMICS’ publication practices are not deceptive or misleading to consumers. *See*,  
22 Attachment 1.
- 23 14. OMICS currently has over 30 million readers with more than 700 open access journals.  
24 *See*, Attachment 2.
- 25 15. Additionally, OMICS has become a global forum for discussion and knowledge sharing  
26 through its internet platform and global conferences. *Id.*
- 27 16. OMICS has received appreciation and invitation letters for hosting its conferences in  
28 many major cities. *See*, Attachment 3.

- 1 17. Omics reputation as a reputable publisher and conference organizer has grown quickly,  
2 and more than 900 well-respected scientists who serve as executive directors/editors-in-  
3 chiefs have recommended OMICS journals be included in PubMed etc. *See*, Attachment  
4 4.
- 5 18. OMICS does solicit articles from academic professionals, but does not do so in a  
6 deceptive or misleading manner.
- 7 19. The publication policies are clearly stated on our website  
8 [www.omicsonline.org/instructionsforauthors-clinical-immunology-open-access.php](http://www.omicsonline.org/instructionsforauthors-clinical-immunology-open-access.php).
- 9 20. Most publication companies require that the individual be a member in order to attempt  
10 publication, this requirement is inconvenient and impossible for some individuals.
- 11 21. My desire in having a publication fee once an article has been selected for publication is  
12 due to my personal experience, and to make the process easier for others who may not be  
13 able to afford the high price of publisher's subscription fees.
- 14 22. OMICS does offer discounts to reduce the publication fee for individuals who make  
15 requests for smaller fees.
- 16 23. When an individual submits an article for publication, it is reviewed under a single blind  
17 review process. *See*, Attachment 1.
- 18 24. Our process is monitored by Editorial Manager System, developed and supported by  
19 Aries Systems Corporation, USA. *Id.*
- 20 25. This system is also supported by Aries Systems Corporation, USA and has also been  
21 adopted by many other well-known publishers. *Id.*
- 22 26. Additionally, OMICS' peer review process is not misleading or deceptive.
- 23 27. It is my belief that because the OMICS peer review process and publishing process is  
24 creating a change in the publishing industry, many OMICS competitors are using  
25 common consumer issues which occur in every business' ordinary course, to degrade the  
26 reputation OMICS has rightfully obtained since 2007.
- 27 28. The use of journal impact factors is also not misleading or deceptive.
- 28



1 29. OMICS does not claim to use Thomson Reuters impact factors, rather OMICS uses  
2 Journal Impact Factors. *See*, Attachment 5.

3 30. Again, simply because the industry is changing and OMICS is challenging long-time  
4 standards, it does not mean that OMICS practices are deceptive or misleading.

5 31. The conferences which OMICS organizes and presents are well-known and respected  
6 throughout the world.

7 32. These conferences are in fact attended and promoted by well-known academics and  
8 researchers.

9 33. As with any conference, occasionally people cancel or cannot attend.

10 34. OMICS does not intend to present any conference without respectable and qualified  
11 individuals.

12 35. In general, OMICS is attempting to make acquiring information and relevant literature  
13 easier for all individuals.

14 36. OMICS at no point in time has ever intended to deceive or mislead any individual.

15 37. OMICS Group with its 2000+ staff (we are just 10 in 2009, 200 in 2013) has been  
16 supported by 50000+ Editorial board members who serve on voluntary basis to  
17 disseminate healthcare and scientific information open access, and year on year this  
18 support is increasing progressively with which OMICS Group is able to grow from 10  
19 journals in 2009 to 700 journals by 2016. OMICS Group journals readers/online visitors  
20 also increased from 10,000 in 2009 to 15 million by 2016.

21 38. Academics not questioning our legitimacy. Few librarians/bloggers are commenting for  
22 their personal gain or bribe. Legitimate scientists know our hardwork and we are  
23 getting support from them. OMICS Group is publishing about 50,000 articles and  
24 proceedings yearly for less than USD 10 Million under Open access category, if the  
25 same articles published in subscription/pay access more than USD 500 Million can be  
26 generated. As you know if open access increasing few librarians may loose their jobs,  
27 from them only we are getting negative comments. OMICS Group disrupting the  
28 subscription based journals publishing and making open access as a response we are

1 getting few allegation from competitive pay access publishers and their agents.  
2 Personally, I encourage debate/contraverse on new disruptive changes then only we can  
3 get quality output.

4 39. OMICS has not engaged in deceptive or misleading actions as alleged by the Federal  
5 Trade Commission.

6 40. If the articles are publishing under open access then only real science will reach to  
7 general public and society. If the real science is publishing under paywall access, no one  
8 is getting access and no comments from public/experts. In my opinion, all subscription-  
9 based publishing is just for money not for real science. Even after peer review, if anyone  
10 found something wrong, they can discuss more at respective online platforms and get  
11 fruitful answers. This is not possible in pay access journals. If the science is publishing  
12 in open Access, it can be re-published in all major languages for free and science  
13 research provide fruitful results to general public along with scientific community.

14  
15 I declare under penalty of perjury that the statements made in this declaration are true and  
16 correct.

17 Executed this 06 day of January, 2017, in Hyderabad.

18  
19 G. Srinubabu  
Srinubabu Gedela